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A Spy Or A Reporter?

Should an American newsman act as a spy for the CIA?

Admiral Stansfield Turner says, yes, providing he, alone, personally, as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, approved; and, providing the security of the nation is involved.

Some newsmen strongly disagree.

They feel if any American newsman takes any assignment from the CIA he endangers not only the lives but also the integrity of all American newsmen.

We disagree.

We believe, first, a newsman must not take pay from anybody or any agency other than the new organization he works for.

Next, we believe, every enemy government is going to assume any American newsman can be on a CIA assignment no matter what CIA or White House policy states.

Lastly, we can't imagine any American in a position to help his country in a matter of national security; not going ahead and doing his duty—to us, it is a duty to serve your country.

In taking this position, we are in sharp difference with a number of top newsmen.

They believe total separation, as it were, between government and newsmen is necessary for objective, accurate news coverage.

We agree in principle.

However, we also believe a newsman can serve his readers, can be honest with them, can do his job with full journalistic responsibility and, at the same time, and without pay, cooperate in an exceptional case with the CIA, the military services, the FBI, the Secret Service, and even state, county and local police.